GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3046
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
DEFACING OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that historical monuments continue to be defaced in spite of framing of guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps are being taken to protect these historical monuments?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) There are instances of scribbling and graffiti on walls in monuments due to lack of general awareness about the value of our tangible heritage.

(c) Periodic awareness programmes are organized at the monuments from time to time by involving public as well as students. The watch and ward staff have been asked to be vigilant in order to detect and prevent acts of vandalism.In addition to ASI's watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police personnel,home guards and CISF personnel have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments. Media campaign for raising awareness has also been launched.Penalty clauses exist in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 under which acts of defacement/vandalism are punishable by imprisonment of upto 3 months or with a fine of upto Rs.5000/- or both.